

Opening Remarks

Hiroshi Yoshida

Distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen,

I feel highly honored to have the opportunity to deliver today's opening address at the first Joint Eighth Clean Fossil Energy Technical Seminar and the Seventh Coal Flow Seminar of APEC, as the successor to Mr. Kawamo, NEDO, Japan.

This joint Seminar will cover the entire coal scenario from upstream to downstream, dealing with a range of important technical, economic and policy issues facing coal use in APEC economies, with an emphasis on the host economy, Thailand

At the first session in the morning today, under the title of 'Coal-Fired Power Plant Related Environmental Issues', speakers will remark on solutions and challenges available to coal-fired power plants in regard to a variety of emissions, which are the cause of long standing environmental problems, such as acid rain.

The second session, under the title of "Commercially Available CCT's in the APEC Region," is to introduce the clean coal- technologies, which have been recently demonstrated in the APEC region. In addition, speakers will describe the possibilities for, new technologies to be used in future commercial plants.

The third session, after lunch today, under the title of "Emerging Technologies to reduce GHG Emissions," introduces the technologies, which are intended to increase efficiency at power plants. The increase in efficiency acts indirectly to reduce Green House Gases. Also, direct approaches to reduce green house gases, like CO₂ capturing and sequestration technologies, are described by the speakers in this session.

Today's last session is under the title of "Clean Fuels in the APEC Region." in this session, the current status and future possibilities of the utilization of clean fuels among APEC members are introduced by the speakers. I am strongly convinced that the utilization of clean fuels in the APEC region will solve environmental issues and offer us an opportunity to proceed with sustainable development.

I hope you will get enough information from today's presentations and be convinced of the bright future for coal utilization.

Thank you for your very kind attention.